



NEWS

CAP National Headquarters
Public Affairs
105 S. Hansell St.
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112
Toll free: 877-227-9142, x250

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 16, 2015

Top CAP cadets in spotlight at National Cadet Competition

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – Highly skilled Civil Air Patrol cadets from across America gather in Alabama at year’s end for the 2015 National Cadet Competition, renewing a prestigious CAP inspection and drill event that originated nearly 70 years ago.

Scheduled for Dec. 30-Jan. 2 at Maxwell AFB, the competition will be held in front of special guests that include senior U.S. Air Force and CAP personnel.

“Civil Air Patrol’s very best cadets will be front and center for this competition,” said Maj. Gen. Joe Vazquez, CAP’s national commander and chief executive officer. “These cadets work year-round to get here.”

Started in 1947, the National Cadet Competition has inspired generations of cadets to strive for excellence. Last year, the event was postponed in order to expand it beyond its inspection and drill emphasis and make the competition more “squadron-friendly” and accessible to each of CAP’s 1,000 cadet units nationwide.

Returning after a one-year hiatus, the new competition has been reduced to teams of six cadets, and the menu of competitive events is much more diverse so there’s something sure to interest everyone.

“Whereas the previous competition focused on military drill, the new model includes model rocketry, a fitness circuit, public speaking, team leadership problems and more,” said Curt LaFond, director of cadet programs at CAP National Headquarters. “At the national-level event, 96 cadets are participating, but the true measure of the new model’s success will be in its ability to attract more teams at the wing and region levels in the years to come.”

The 96 cadets competing in the 2015 competition earned the right to attend by winning local, state and regional competitions. Each of CAP’s eight regions are represented, as well as the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah and Virginia.

Cadets will be competing on six-member teams, demonstrating skills in events that involve precision and teamwork. These skills include indoor and outdoor color guard challenges, a written test of leadership and aerospace knowledge and a Jeopardy!-style game, a physical

fitness test, an obstacle course-like fitness challenge, public speaking, model rocketry, team leadership problems (group problem solving challenges) and a uniform inspection.

Judges will be faculty from the U.S. Air Force Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy.

The winning cadet team takes home the Air Force Chief of Staff Sweepstakes Award Trophy. Second- and third-place team trophies will also be presented, along with individual awards for cadets competing in several categories, including top written score and fastest mile-run time.

“We’re glad that the National Cadet Competition is back!” exclaimed activity director Lt. Col. Grace Edinboro. “Our cadets and their senior leaders look forward to this event. So it is great for us to be together again, this time for an exciting, new year-end competition at Maxwell.”

The National Cadet Competition is one of 50 National Cadet Special Activities, or NCSAs, sponsored by CAP in 2015.

Each NCSA allows young men and women ages 12 to 20 to hone their skills in specific areas like search and rescue, flight and emergency services, science, leadership fundamentals, citizenship and military courtesies, and gives them the opportunity to explore aerospace technology, STEM and aviation careers.

Last year, more than 1,500 youth participated in CAP-sponsored cadet activities.

#2015CadetComp

Civil Air Patrol, as the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 58,000 members nationwide, operating a fleet of 550 aircraft. CAP, in its Total Force role, performs about 85 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 70 lives annually. Its unpaid professionals also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to more than 24,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet programs. Performing missions for America for the past 74 years, CAP received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2014 in honor of the heroic efforts of its World War II veterans. CAP also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. Visit www.capvolunteernow.com for more information.

Civil Air Patrol cadets participating in the 2015 National Cadet Competition:

Great Lakes Region

Michigan Wing

“GR Metro”

Grand Rapids Metro Cadet Squadron (Grand Rapids)

Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Samuel Haveman

Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Jacob Lackey

Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Kyle Vandenheuvel

Chief Master Sgt. Gavin Bronkema

Cadet Tech. Sgt. Dan Jauregui

Cadet Airman 1st Class Alex Richardson

Ohio Wing

“Team 051”

Youngstown ARS Squadron (Vienna)

Cadet 2nd Lt. Matthias Lewis
Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Allyson Spay
Cadet Staff Sgt. Carissa Hartley
Cadet Staff Sgt. Amanda Vyse
Cadet Senior Airman Brent Pollard
Cadet Airman Jonathan Rice

Middle East Region

North Carolina Wing

“Raiders”

Raleigh-Wake Composite Squadron (Raleigh)

Cadet Maj. Holden Browning
Cadet 1st Lt. Max Matthews
Cadet 2nd Lt. Samuel Smith
Cadet Chief Master Sgt. William Smith
Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Dylan Walker
Cadet Master Sgt. Zoe Vestal

Virginia Wing

“VA-095”

Coastal Composite Squadron (Virginia Beach)

Cadet Capt. Scott Zieger
Cadet 2nd Lt. Grant Manock
Cadet 2nd Lt. Patrick Redmond
Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Saffron Hewitt-Qualls
Cadet Tech. Sgt. Brendan Shull
Cadet Staff Sgt. Jonathan Rose

North Central Region

Minnesota Wing

“IceCAP”

North Hennepin Composite Squadron (Crystal)

Cadet Capt. Sarah Chanski
Cadet 2nd Lt. Lydia Chanski
Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Ethan Spaid
Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Jack Trombley
Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Adam Oldfather
Cadet Airman 1st Class Edward Maertens

South Dakota Wing

“T34m B1g S10ux”

Sioux Falls Composite Squadron (Sioux Falls)

Cadet 2nd Lt. Christopher Dinnel
Cadet 2nd Lt. Jaden Petersen
Cadet 2nd Lt. Jaden Roblewsky
Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Graham Dinnel
Cadet Master Sgt. Andrew Toft

Cadet Airman 1st Class Andrew Sweebe

Northeast Region

Pennsylvania Wing

“PA”

Allegheny County Composite Squadron 602 (West Mifflin)

Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Noah Wolfe
Cadet Staff Sgt. Steven Babyak
Cadet Staff Sgt. Seth Parker
Cadet Senior Airman Jarrett Niecgorski
Cadet Airman Brianna DeYarmin

Washington Composite Squadron

Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Zachary Keyes

New York Wing

“Xpendables”

Suffolk County Cadet Squadron 10 (Bohemia)

Cadet Capt. Derek Profit
Cadet 2nd Lt. Michael Russo
Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Alison Shumway
Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Kyle Velez
Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Nicholas Molinelli
Cadet Master Sgt. Nicholas Volpe

Pacific Region

California Wing

“CA-324”

Skyhawk Composite Squadron 47 (Camp Pendleton)

Cadet 1st Lt. Samuel Cho
Cadet 2nd Lt. Tyler Jablonski
Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Nathan Bierle
Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Connor Hamnquist
Cadet Tech. Sgt. Ian Hamnquist
Cadet Airman 1st Class Amber Roland

Hawaii Wing

“Dakine Mokes”

66th Composite Squadron (Kapolei)

Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Ryan Jordan Castillo
Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Irani
Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Matthew Warren

West Oahu Composite Squadron (Pearl Harbor)

Cadet Maj. Andrew Gomes
Cadet Capt. Ariana Bean
Cadet Tech. Sgt. Matthew Mangold

Rocky Mountain Region

Colorado Wing

“Mustang Red Tails”

Mustang Cadet Squadron (Centennial)

Cadet Capt. Chad Lewis

Cadet 2nd Lt. Jon Williamson

Senior Master Sgt. Andrew Connor

Cadet Staff Sgt. Noah Morgan

Cadet Tech. Sgt. Christopher Harmon

Cadet Airman Spencer Clancy

Utah Wing

“Orion”

Weber Minuteman Cadet Squadron (Riverdale)

Cadet Lt. Col. Rosalyn Carlisi

Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Wood

Cadet Master Sgt. Braylee Earnhart

Cadet Staff Sgt. Houston Crudele

Cadet Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Perczak

Cadet Airman 1st Class Enoch Horning

Southeast Region

Florida Wing

“SER Team 1”

Coral Springs Cadet Squadron (Coral Springs)

Cadet 2nd Lt. Michael Cassell

Cadet 2nd Lt. Santiago Ledesma

Cadet Master Sgt. Andres Fonseca

Cadet Staff Sgt. Kenneth Lasseter

Cadet Staff Sgt. Pedro Turmero

Cadet Senior Airman Anthony Vicary

“SER-Sabre”

Florida Wing Ormond Beach Composite Squadron (Ormond Beach)

Cadet 2nd Lt. Shane Fitzgerald

Cadet 2nd Lt. Devon Giles

Cadet 2nd Lt. Arthur Lohman

Cadet Master Sgt. Corey Spitz

Cadet Staff Sgt. Benjamin Bauder

Cadet Tech. Sgt. Andrew Wiker

Southwest Region

Arizona Wing

“AZ Wing”

Deer Valley Composite Squadron 302 (Phoenix)

Cadet 1st Lt. Jacob Little

Cadet 1st Lt. Cameron Roach

Cadet 2nd Lt. Jacob Madsen

Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Torrye Moore

Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Madison McKown
Cadet Tech. Sgt. Kyra Martinez

“AZ-388”

388th Composite Squadron (Glendale)

Cadet Capt. Emilee Mandile
Cadet 2nd Lt. Jackson Burnett
Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Cody Mitchell
Cadet Senior Master Sgt. Sean Young
Cadet Tech. Sgt. Edgar Richardson
Cadet Airman 1st Class Melynda Pearson

CAP contacts:

Julie Debardelaben

jdebardelaben@capnhq.gov

334-953-7748, ext 250

334-549-2224 (mobile)

Steve Cox

scox@capnhq.gov

334-953-7748, ext. 251

334-296-5881 (mobile)

